(c) and (d) No Separate nodal stockyards are being set up by SAIL. However, the stockyards at Kalamboli (Bombay), Madras, Faridabad, Dhankuni (Calcutta), Panki (Kanpur) are being modernised and expanded to handle larger volume and are intended to serve as nodal stockyards to take care of future requirements if necessary.

Modernisation of Durgapur Steel Plant

669. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a Secretary level Committee headed by Cabinet Secretary was set up to inquire into manipulated cost hike, doubl e the approved cost in Durgapur Steel Modernisation Scheme from 1360 crores to 2667 crores;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Committee at different stages has clearly mentioned about the deliberate and manipulated cost hike by the then Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the SAIL; if so, the details in this regard ; and

(c) whether Government propose to file an F.I.R. against the authorities responsible for the cost hike in connivance with foreign agencies as well as Indian private sector companies, like BTS ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

National Housing Policy

670. SHRI P. UPENDRA :
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER :
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI :

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have finalised the draft of the National Housing Policy;

(b) whether the draft proposes big role for the private sector in house building and real estate activities in Metropolitan-cities ;

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard ; and

(d) whether any schemes have been formulated in pursuance thereof for implementation under the Eighth Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) The revised draft National Housing Policy is under finalisation and likely to be placed before the Parliament shortly.

(b) to (d) The revised Draft National Housing Policy envisages encouraging involvement of licensed private developers in land development, construction and infrastructure provision with adequate legal safeguards, for consumers metropolitan and other cities.

After the draft NHP is finally approved the State Governments will 'work out modalities and evolve detailed guidelines in that regard.

National Commission on Urbanisation

671. SHRI R.T. GOPALAN : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the aims and objectives in setting up the National Commission on Urbanisation ;

(b) the details of the recommendations made by the Commission ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the recommendations made by the Commission have not been implemented ; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to implement the recommendations and by when these are likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) The National Commission on Urbanisation was constituted to the state of urbanisation the country, identify priority action areas and formulate guidelines for action plan for managing the rapid urbanisation. The Commission came up with specific suggestions on a broad range of policy interventions necessary to bring about more efficient Urban settlement management which could generate rapid economic growth with equity and social justice. The following are the major recommendations :

1. Consolidating, strengthening and expanding the economic and physical base of the 329 identified urban centres falling into 49 Spatial Priority Urbanisation Regions.

2. Increasing the current share of 4% to 8% for the urban sector in the total Plan allocation.

3. Encouraging self-employment of Urban poor by an appropriate credit support programme supervised by an Urban Small Business Development Bank.

4. Setting up of 4 major banking institutes to augment inflow of institutional finance for urban development.

5. Increasing the supply of serviced land and low-cost shelter, improving and upgrading slums and conserving the existing housing stock.

6. Amendment of Urban Land (Ceiling & Regulation) Act, 1976 in order to bring larger supply of land into market.

7. Amendment of existing Rent Control legislation to limit tenency protection to the poor and existing and provide for annual revision of rents.

8. Recognition of the existing Municipal structure and inproving the financial position of the local bodies.

9. Setting up of State Government Finance Commissions for adequate devolution of resources from the State Governments to local bodies.

(c) and (d)The report of the Commission has been examined in detail in consultation with various Ministries and Departments of Government of India, State Governments and Union Territories and also in a number of conferences and seminars wherein experts in the field also participated. Urban Development perse is a State subject and it is therefore for the State Governments to take action on specific issues relating to them like the selection of towns for assistance under various schemes including Centrally Sponsored Schemes and so on.

Some of the suggestions made by the Commission have been acted upon as part of ongoing Housing & Urban Development programmes. These include:

(i) Setting up of a National Housing Bank under the R.B.I.

(ii) Opening of a separate window in the HUDCO for providing funds for infrastructure development by various local bodies/State agencies.

(iii) Introduction of Nehru Rozgar Yojana as measure of urban poverty alleviation.

(iv) Providing urban basic services.

(v) Assisting the ientified towns under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of IDSMT. The Delhi Rent Control Act has already been amended and the State Govts. have been advised to consider similar amendments to the Rent Control Laws, if any, in their States. The recommendations made by the Commission have been taken into consideration while formulating the Eight Five Year Plan.

Development of medium and small towns in Tamil Nadu

672. SHRI R.T. GOPALAN : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal regarding development of small and medium towns of Tamil Nadu is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the State-wise amount spent on the development of such towns during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) The Centrally sponsored Scheme of integrated development of small and medium towns is an on-going scheme started during the 6th Plan. Towns are selected for assistance under this scheme every year depending upon the budgetary allowance with the Govt. of India for this purpose and based on the list of pericritized towns received from the State Govts. alongwith detailed project reports of the schemes. Govt of Tamil Nadu have sent project reports for five towns for the current year. Final decision on sanction of IDSMT schemes for the current year has not been taken.

(c) State-wise release of fund by Central Govt. under the scheme during last three years is given in statement (*See below*) Details of year-wise expenditure including the State Componedt under the scheme are not maintained by the Central Govt.